



## Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy National Goals; Collective Solutions

*Response to Wildfire  
Fire Adapted Communities  
Resilient Landscapes  
Supported by Science*

Western Regional Strategy Committee (WRSC) Update **July 2012**

### Assessing our Successes

#### Collaboration Assessment Tool Underway

The WRSC is launching an assessment of strategies that communities, agencies and partners are currently pursuing to successfully address the Cohesive Strategy's three goals: improved response to wildfires, fire-adapted communities, and fire resilient landscapes.

The assessment is being conducted under an agreement with the Swan Ecosystem Center. It will focus on these elements of strategic planning and implementation:

- Cohesive Strategy elements addressed
- Geographic scope and scale
- The level and nature of integration of Cohesive Strategy elements
- Leadership roles and dynamics
- Participation and partnerships
- Formal agreements utilized
- Resources utilized (including funding sources, planning and decision support tools, technical assistance, labor, etc.)
- Network connections for sharing, learning and support
- Evaluation and adaptive management

We expect the findings to help describe key elements and successful trends in planning and implementation of the Cohesive Strategy goals, catalogue the diversity of approaches being employed across the West, and help expose best practices that are a product of innovation and adaptation for developing integrated planning and implementation strategies. These results will help inform the WRSC's implementation planning of the Cohesive Strategy in the Western Region.

#### Thanks and Congratulations to Joe Stutler!

After 44 fire seasons Joe Stutler, Deschutes County Forester and Co-Chair of the WRSC, has elected to retire (again). Thank you, Joe, for your outstanding leadership and successful public service career.

### Comment Period Extended!

The comment period to provide feedback to the WRSC **HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 7/10** to gain feedback on the alternatives to be used for the sensitivity analysis portion of the Phase III development of the Western Cohesive Strategy.

This step in the process is designed to collect feedback from stakeholders to help shape the range of alternatives and emphasis areas within alternatives for implementation of the National Wildfire Cohesive Strategy in the Western Region, and to identify and refine prospective performance measures or metrics associated with implementation.

This opportunity for comment reaffirms the WRSC's desire to provide transparency and provide stakeholders the opportunity to help shape the suite of potential solutions to best meet the West's needs. Stakeholders are asked to review the Western Region Strategy and Assessment provide comment on the preliminary alternatives and performance measures.

The comment period will now close at close of business on July 11.

The Comment Form can be found at:  
<http://cohesivefire.nemac.org/webform/western-comment-form>

The "Preliminary Alternatives and Performance Measures Summary" can be found at: <http://sites.nemac.org/>



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#### **Science Team to Meet in July**

The National Science and Analysis Team (NSAT) will meet July 17 in Salt Lake City to develop specific alternatives for the implementation stage of the Cohesive Strategy. The NSAT will interact at the meeting with the Western Region Strategic Committee. Using stakeholder feedback and comments, along with data analysis and modeling, the preliminary alternatives will be refined and performance measures established for the Phase III analysis.

The teams will look at how certain alternatives may improve the ability to meet a CS goal in a given geographic area. They will also examine the investment choices that can be made, and the outcomes and consequences of those choices.

Ultimately the alternatives that will be presented at the end of Phase III will be based on needs and feedback from stakeholders, field data, and the results of the models. These alternatives will become the tools available to help local stakeholders to meet the goals of the Cohesive Strategy.

#### **Cohesive Strategy Briefings**

The Western Region Steering CS Committee once again is reaching out to some new stakeholders in order to increase the breadth of support for the Cohesive Strategy.

On June 22, Joe Freeland of the Steering Committee briefed the Western Regional Partnership (WRP) in Albuquerque. Joe made a presentation to the WRP Military Readiness, Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Aviation Committee. Their goal is to provide a forum for senior-policy level Federal, State and Tribal leadership to proactively identify issues in the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and to develop solutions that support WRP Partners and protect natural resources, while promoting sustainability, homeland security and military readiness. WRP principals include representatives of Federal agencies and State and Tribal leadership in the States of Arizona, California, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah. Additionally non-governmental organizations are encouraged to participate at the WRP Committee level. WRP strives to operate at the regional level, but will invite local governments to participate at the project level.

And in the near future WRCS Work Group member Craig Glazier will be hosting a presentation on July 17th in Boise for the Idaho Lands Resource Coordinating Council. That meeting will take place at the Hampton Boise Spectrum. The meeting starts at 0800 and concludes at 1600 and it is open to the public. For more information contact Craig at [cglazier@fs.fed.us](mailto:cglazier@fs.fed.us).

#### **Success Stories**

This month we feature successes from the Karuk Tribe, Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness Fire Program, and Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project at: <http://sites.nemac.org/westcohesivefire/about-you/>

See our national Partner Perspectives and Success Stories at: <http://forestsandrangelands.gov>

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